

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/052,278

Examiner

Chante Harrison

Applicant(s)

ROBIN, MICHAEL B.

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal Brief 1/24/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3-30-98
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Morasch on 6/23/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1 and 3 as shown herein.

Claims 1-7 are pending and are listed following:

1. (currently amended) In a computer system having a video display device, the video display device having a screen, a method comprising:

providing a plurality of controls on the screen of the video display device;

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identifying a control group, the control group being comprised of at least two controls associated in a data structure;

representing the control group with a single status indicator in the data structure, where the single status indicator is a bit of a control word that represents the at least two controls of the control group; and

directing the activation of the controls of the control group by storing an active value in the single status indicator.

2. (previously presented) In a computer system having a video display device, the video display device having a screen and the computer system including a cursor which is displayed on the screen, a method comprising:

providing a plurality of controls on the screen of the video display device;
identifying a control group, the control group being comprised of at least two controls associated in a data structure;

representing the control group with a single status indicator in the data structure;

directing the activation of the controls of the control group by storing an active value in the single status indicator;

identifying a location on the screen that the cursor points to; and

for each control of the control group, identifying a control position, the control position defining a location on the screen for the activated control, determining a control distance, the control distance defining a control connecting path which connects the identified location with the control position, calculating a control angle, the control angle being an angle formed between the control connecting path and a last direction of cursor movement path, and calculating a weighted distance.

3. (currently amended) An apparatus for activating and deactivating a control grouping, the control grouping being comprised of at least two controls and being displayed on a screen of a video display device of a computer system, the apparatus including:

a memory formed within the computer system; and

a control grouping identifier contained within the memory, wherein the control grouping identifier has an active state and an inactive state and wherein the control grouping identifier is a bit of a control word that represents the controls of the control grouping; and

an identifier for an individual control contained within the memory, the identifier for the individual control having an active state and an inactive state.

4. (previously presented) An apparatus for activating and deactivating a control grouping, the control grouping being comprised of at least two controls and being displayed on a screen of a video display device of a computer system, the apparatus including:

a memory formed within the computer system; and

a control grouping identifier contained within the memory, wherein the control grouping identifier has an active state and an inactive state and wherein the control grouping identifier is a bit of a control word that represents the controls of the control grouping.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising directing the activation of individual controls by storing an active value in a status indicator for each control.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising directing the deactivation of the controls of the control group by masking the active value in the single status indicator.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

directing the deactivation of the controls of the control group by masking the active value in the single status indicator; and

directing the activation of the controls of the control group by storing an active value in a status indicator for each control.

8. (canceled)

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
Applicant claims representing a plurality of controls associated in a data structure as a control group, where the control group is represented as a single status indicator by a bit of a control word (claims 1 and 3), which is not disclosed by the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

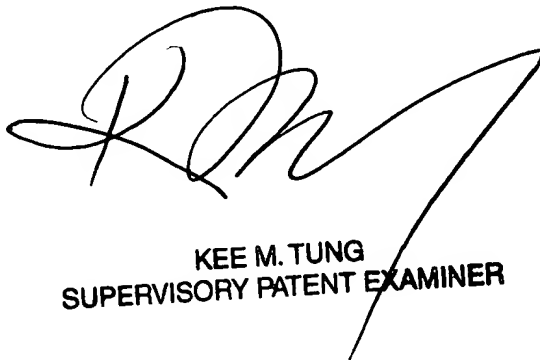
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chante Harrison whose telephone number is 571-272-7659. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on 571-272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Chante Harrison
Examiner
Art Unit 2628

Ch
July 10, 2006



KEE M. TUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER